

**If you have an apple and I have an apple and we exchange apples then you and I will still each have one apple. But if you have an idea and I have an idea and we exchange these ideas, then each of us will have two ideas.**

George Bernard Shaw

*Irish dramatist & socialist (1856 - 1950)*



# Organization of Public Health Services in Israel

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Jerusalem, 14 March, 2013.



# Overview

- The origin of the Public Health System in Israel
- Public Health Services in Israel today
- Main challenges of public health in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

# The British mandate in Israel 1918-1948

- The health authorities were responsible mainly for public health
- Division of the country into sanitary districts managed by District Health Officers
- Laws and regulations were applied as “ordinances”- e.g. "Public Health Ordinance of 1940”
- Health care services were the responsibility of the “natives”



## 1953- Public Health Services were established with 4 major components:

- Adopting the British mandate structure with regard to sanitary districts, an epidemiology department and the public health lab.
- Special health services for new immigrants (“Olim” )
- Hadassah inheritance: well baby clinics (“Drops of Milk” “ Goutte du Lait”) and school health services
- Anti- tuberculosis League.







WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
Regional Office for Europe

*For achievement worthy of  
international recognition,  
this WHO 50th anniversary  
commemorative certificate for  
a national community-based  
women and/or children's  
health project that promotes  
health for all values of  
equity, solidarity, participation,  
intersectoral approaches  
and partnership is awarded to:*

Mother and child health clinics

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B. M. Melle', is written over a horizontal line.



**MINISTRY  
OF HEALTH**



For a healthier life

# Public Health Services in Israel today





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## The Mission Statement of the Israeli Public Health Service

To promote health and quality of life of the individual and the community through disease prevention and the creation of a healthy and supportive environment for the entire Israeli population.

## Classic Roles of the PHS

Health promotion – health education on the population level.

- National 5 year plan for active and healthy lifestyle



## Classic Roles of the PHS

- Health protection - against environmental hazards.
  - Food safety and quality
  - Water safety and quality

## Classic Roles of the PHS

- Health prevention – on individual level
  - **Identify outbreaks / epidemics.**
  - **Monitoring trends of morbidity (place, time, people).**
  - **Interventions to limit morbidity /mortality**

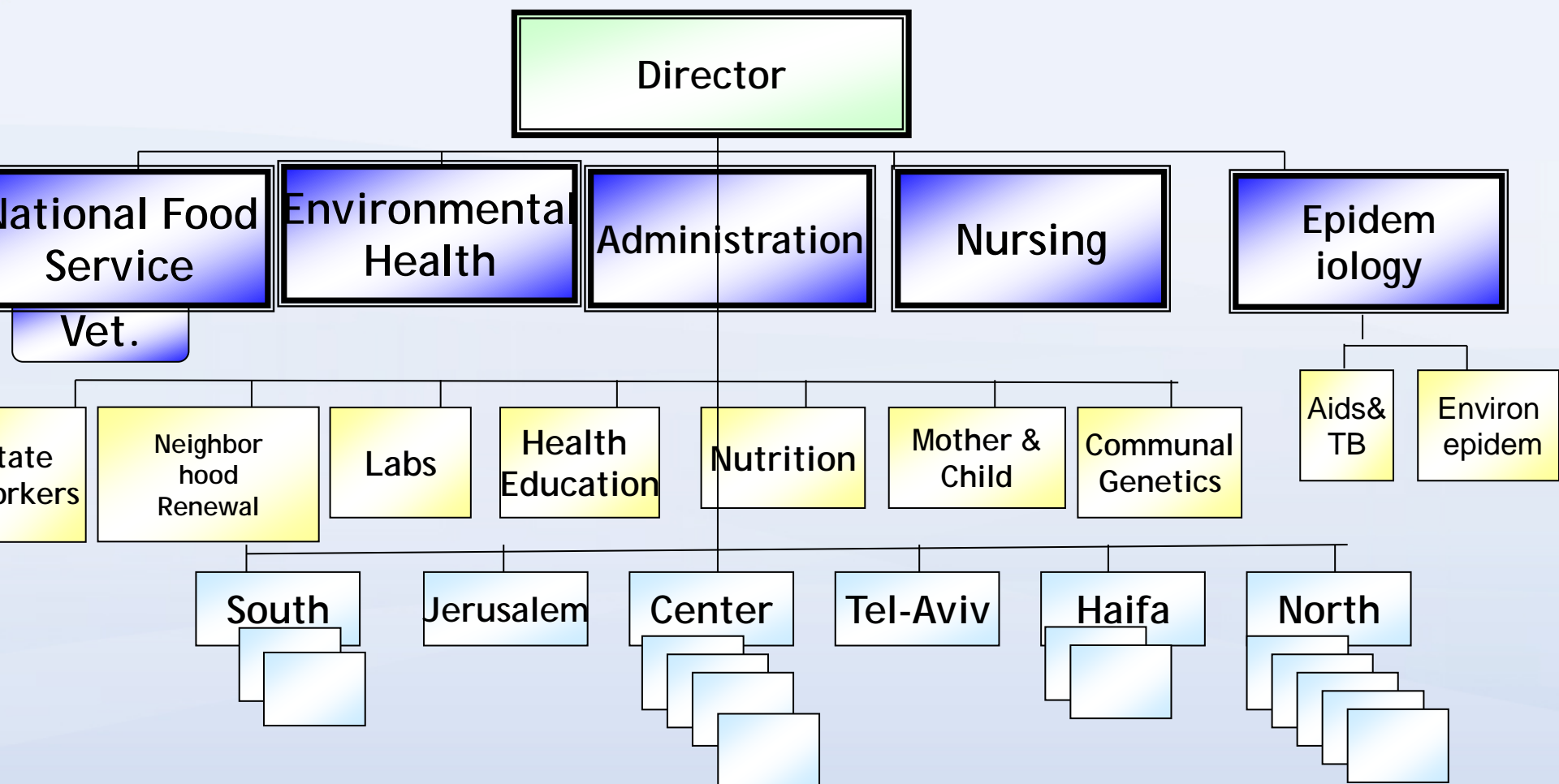




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## Staffing of PHS

- **Public Health Physicians**
- **Public Health Nurses**
- **Physicians: Pediatricians & Obstetricians**
- **Environmental engineers**
- **Food technicians**
- **Paramedical Professionals**
- **Secretarial Assistance.**

## District Health Offices

**The district and sub-district health offices:**

- **Administer and integrate the public health policy of the Ministry of Health.**
- **Perform mini-ministerial duties ( PH and other ministerial functions ).**
- **Identify regional health problems**
- **Institute special programs and integrate nationally designated programs.**

# Prevention



## Specific PHS target populations

- **Antenatal care**
- **Children from birth to 6 years of age.**
- **Students**
  - **primary schools**
  - **secondary schools**
  - **education for the disabled ( network of special education facilities ).**



## Operation of Preventive Medicine Services

- **The services are supplied all over the country in a wide network of ~1000 “Mother and Child Health Clinics”**
- **The services are provided by the PHS, HMOs and municipalities.**

# Preventive Health Services for Individuals and Families

- **Primary Prevention – Health promotion and specific prevention**
- **Health promotion & education in health topics: nutrition, breast-feeding, safety, child development, family planning, pre-natal services (using folic acid), etc.**
- **Counseling for the health and welfare of children and their families.**
- **Routine Immunization program.**



# Routine immunization schedule of infants and children in Israel, 2013

Birth	HB			
1 month	HB			
2 months		DTaP-HIB-IPV	Rota	Pneumo
4 months		DTaP-HIB-IPV	Rota	Pneumo
6 months	HB	DTaP-HIB-IPV	Rota	
12 months		DTaP-HIB-IPV	MMRV	Pneumo
18 months	HA			
24 months	HA			
6 yrs			MMRV	
7 yrs		DTaP-IPV		
13 yrs		DTaP		

# Registry of AEFI

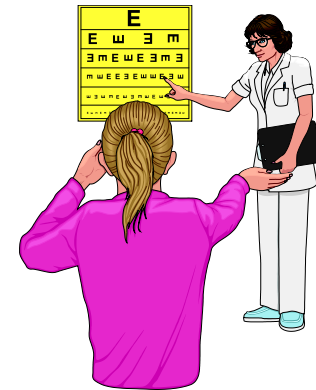
- **Since 1987, the Epidemiology Division has maintained a registry of vaccine side effects, as reported by vaccine providers to the District Health Offices.**
- **The Division of Epidemiology performs ongoing assessment of AEFI as they arrive.**
- **In rare instances, apparently important but doubtful cases are presented to a standing committee of external experts.**

# Preventive Health Services for Individuals and Families

## Secondary Prevention – Early detection and Treatment

### Routine screening tests for children:

- Growth and development evaluation
- Physical examinations
- Hearing, eyesight, communication.



Routine screening tests for pregnant women: weight, blood-pressure, protein and sugar in urine.

# Preventive Health Services for Individuals and Families

**Tertiary Prevention – reduce complications & rehabilitation.**

**Children with special needs (schools).**

**“The Fourth World” families.**



# The challenges of public health in the 21<sup>st</sup> century







## The challenges of public health in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

